

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
November 8, 2011
Conference Call

Present: Jana Ginter
Shaun Sims
Alison Lass
Bryan Brost
Patrick Zimmerer
Jason Fearneyhough, Director

Absent: Jim Hodder
John Moore
Jim Price
John Hansen
Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Governor's Office

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Chris Wichmann
Justin Williams

Guests: Bobbie Frank
Leanne Stevenson
John Crisp

A quorum was not established so no action was taken during the meeting.

Wild Horses

Chris Wichmann discussed the wild horse meeting he attended in Virginia on October 13. He said they (BLM) are developing a new strategy that should be out soon. It focuses on the different types of population controls. The National Academy of Science will do a summarization of the BLM program and develop a new census program, as their current methods don't give an accurate count. BLM is at a crisis point right now with adoptions down and holding facilities are at capacity or above capacity. The long-term holding facilities have non-reproducing herds and they are looking at increasing that program. 76.9 million was budgeted last year and that has been reduced to 76.7 million for this year. The Eco-sanctuaries budget is 3 million, so in essence they are getting more. In the fall gathers, 861 were captured in Great Divide and 280 in Red Desert. Green Mountain was not completed due to weather, but 160 horses were gathered and that will make them out of AMLs since they are not going back to do more.

Delisting of the Wolves

There is a big push to get the legislation out because that has to be approved before the delisting can happen. Predator status will fall under the purview of WDA, the predator boards, and the ADMB. It will be difficult to track the number of wolves taken in that state and we have to be able to keep the numbers up to the agreed number in order for them to not be listed again. There is going to be money in the ADMB to take care of wolves that are causing problems and that the process is going smoothly. Game and Fish will take care of the trophy area.

Shaun Sims explained the genetic connective of the wolf packs. The line will drop down to the Hoback during certain times to allow for their migration. Aggressive management in the Trophy Zone has been removed from the plan. Landowners are having trouble with wolves, but they can get a take permit that is good for 45 days and can be renewed continually to take two wolves.

Living Legacy

Muff explained the costs associated with the tree guards. The guards vary between \$385 and \$440, depending on the finish. The stone is \$35 and the plaque is \$70. State Forestry has found trees for around \$150 if purchased in bulk. In order to be able to care for the trees in the future including replacement, a drip system and/or sprinklers, the cost for the trees with guards would have to be around \$750.

Bryan Brost thinks there needs to be guards on the trees planted on Cowboy Drive. Jana Ginter agreed those trees need some protection, but doesn't feel the other trees on the fairgrounds need them.

Patrick Zimmerer said we were to get a letter from F.A.I.R about running the Living Legacy Program through them, but we have yet to receive it. The validity of the not-for-profit status of the program may be in question.

John Crisp, from State Forestry, said he thinks the trees along Cowboy Drive and the Midway need some type of protection because of the high traffic areas. He suggested they be permanent. He thinks the cost justifies the replacement of the damaged tree. He said there are areas that don't need them, but the high traffic areas do.

Muff said that in talking with Tyler at State Fair, there has only been one tree damaged by a vehicle and he also said that you can buy a couple of trees for the price of a tree guard.

Bobbie Frank said the Sims tree would be a pilot for the tree guard and that the Wyoming Natural Resource Fund and State Forestry would be able to pay for its construction.

Water Quality Grant Report

Janet Hallsted from the South Big Horn Conservation District joined the call to further explain to the Board, the outcome of their Water Quality project. She said DEQ asked her district to do a use attainability study to see if the usage analysis needed to be done. The conclusion was there were two sites as primary contact recreation. The other sites were drainage ditches or irrigation lines. They checked 36 sites in all.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Sims, President

Date